## Message Text

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**ACTION CU-03** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /036 W

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O R 071635Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9989 TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 5877

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CORRECTEDCOPYFORMRN 06342 VICE 06343

STATE FOR CU/ARTS, EUR/SOV; USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: AMERICAN CONSERVATORY

THEATRE (A.C.T.)

REF: STATE 105696; NALLE/CORIDEN TELECON MAY 7

- 1. SECOND CHECK WITH MINCULT (BUTROVA) MAY 7 CONFIRMS MINISTRY'S POSITION THAT IT IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT TOUR WITH PLAY "MATCHMAKER" UNLESS THERE CAN BE THREE MONTH INTERVAL BETWEEN MINCULT PREVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND ACTUAL PRESENTATION IN USSR. BUTROVA BECAME MORE SPECIFIC TO THE POINT OF SAYING MINISTRY "DID NOT CONSIDER 'MATCHMAKER' AN INTERESTING PLAY FOR OUR SOVIET PEOPLE." SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "WITH GOOD WILL, THEY (E.E. A.C.T..) COULD CHOOSE ANOTHER PLAY, AS WE HAVE SUGGESTED." IF NOT, SHE AGREED, THERE IS NO WAY OF MAINTAINING TOUR FOR FALL OF 1975.
- 2. BUTROVA WAS THEREFORE INFORMED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE ADVISED OF MINISTRY'S POSITION, AND THAT IT WAS ASSUMED THAT A.C.T. WOULD BE ADVISED NOT TO SIGN ACTORS' CONTRACTS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER EXPLORATIONS WITH A.C.T. AFTER THE TWO AMERICAN PLAYS COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE SEEN DURING THE COMING SEASON.

3. RECOMMEND COORDINATED IF-ASKED PRESS POSITION, WHICH WE SUGGEST SHOULD CHARACTERIZE ACTION AS POST-PONEMENT AND FOCUS ON SOVIET DESIRE TO SEE PLAYS AS STAGED AND PERFORMED BEFORE ARRANGING DETAILS OF TOUR. STOESSEL

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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TAGS: OEXC, UR To: STATE

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